



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the General Counsel

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1903
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

May 31, 2019

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock News - DEPT MR 74029
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144 -2516

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request
IJ Guidance on Waiving Presence

Dear Matthew Hoppock:

This response acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). Your request has been assigned control number: 2019-34516.

If you have filed a fee waiver request, EOIR will address the fee waiver in a separate letter. Otherwise, your request constitutes an agreement to pay fees that may be chargeable up to \$25 without notice. Most requests do not require any fees; however, if the fees for processing the request are estimated to exceed \$25.00, EOIR will notify you before processing the request to determine whether you will commit to paying the fee or whether you wish to narrow the scope of your request to reduce the fee. Fees may be charged for searching records at the rate of \$4.75 (administrative)/\$10.00 (professional) per quarter hour, and for duplication of copies at the rate of \$.05 per copy. The first 100 copies and two hours of search time are not charged, and charges must exceed \$25.00 before we will charge a fee.

The FOIA requires an agency to respond within 20 working days after receipt of the request, and EOIR endeavors to meet this standard. The FOIA permits a ten-day extension of this time period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B), based on unusual circumstances. Your request involves “unusual circumstances,” and EOIR is extending the time period to respond by an additional 10 working days because your request either requires the collection of records from field offices, or involves a search for numerous records that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search at headquarters.

EOIR FOIA requests are placed in one of three tracks. Track one is for those requests that seek and receive expedited processing pursuant to subsection (a)(6)(E) of the FOIA. The second track is for simple requests that do not involve voluminous records or lengthy consultations with other entities. Track three is for complex requests that involve voluminous records and for which lengthy or numerous consultations are required, or those requests that may involve sensitive records. Your request has been placed in the complex track requests.

If you have any questions regarding unusual circumstances, you may contact the EOIR FOIA Service Center to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request with the analyst handling your request or the FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number 703-605-1297 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

Crystal Souza

EOIR# 2019-34516